

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1. A protective cover for an electronic device having a display screen and user inputs, the protective cover comprising:  
            a cover portion; and  
            a coupling portion adapted to removably couple the cover portion to the electronic device, the coupling portion adapted to allow the cover portion  
10          to be selectively positioned between a first position and a second position;  
            wherein in the first position, the cover portion is positioned proximate to the user inputs and is sized to cover at least one user input;  
            wherein in the second position, the cover portion is positioned proximate to the display screen and is sized to cover at least a portion of the  
15          display screen.
2. The cover of claim 1 wherein, in the second position, the cover portion is configured to limit an angle of view of the display screen through the cover portion.  
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3. The cover of claim 2 wherein the cover portion comprises:  
            a transparent plate; and  
            a layer covering one surface of the transparent plate, the layer comprising a material configured to limit the angle of view of the display  
25          screen through the cover portion when the cover portion is in the second position.
4. The cover of claim 2 wherein the cover portion includes channels formed in one surface, the channels each having sidewalls and a bottom wall  
30          defining a length, width and depth of the channel;

a substantially opaque material coating at least one sidewall of the channels;

the substantially opaque material configured to limit the angle of view of the display screen through the cover portion.

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5. The cover of claim 1 wherein the cover portion is substantially rigid.

6. The cover of claim 1 wherein the cover portion includes at least one hole.

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7. The cover of claim 1 wherein the cover portion includes an edge extending about at least a portion of a periphery of one surface, the edge extending substantially upward when the cover portion is located in the first position.

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8. The cover of claim 1 wherein the coupling portion comprises:  
a post coupled to the cover portion;  
a piece adapted to receive a portion of the post such that the post is rotatable within the piece, the piece further adapted to removably and rigidly couple to the electronic device.

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9. The cover of claim 8 wherein the piece removably couples to a hinge of the electronic device, the electronic device having a base portion and a display portion hinged together.

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10. The cover of claim 8 wherein the piece comprises a clip that can be removably attached to a portion of the electronic device.

11. The cover of claim 8 wherein the piece and the post are configured such that the post is friction fit within the piece, such that the cover portion is

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held in position by the friction fit.

12. The cover of claim 1 further comprising a clip removably coupling the cover portion proximate to the display screen when the cover portion is in the second position.

13. The cover of claim 1 further comprising:  
a touch sensitive layer positioned on at least a portion of an exposed surface of the cover portion in the first position, the touch sensitive portion serving as a user input.

14. The cover of claim 1 wherein in the first position, the cover portion is sized to cover the user inputs and in the second position, the cover portion is sized to cover the display screen.

15. A protective computer system comprising:  
a computer having a base including a keyboard and a lid including a display screen, the lid pivotally coupled to the base;  
a cover; and  
a coupling device adapted to removably couple the cover to the computer, the coupling device adapted to allow the cover portion to be selectively positioned between a first position and a second position;  
wherein in the first position, the cover is positioned proximate to and over the keyboard and is sized to cover the keyboard; and  
wherein in the second position, the cover is positioned proximate to the display screen such that the cover is between a viewer and the display screen and the cover is sized to cover the display screen, the cover adapted to limit an angle of view of the display screen through the cover.

16. The cover of claim 15 wherein the cover comprises:

a transparent plate; and  
a layer covering one surface of the transparent plate, the layer comprising a material configured to limit the angle of view of the display screen through the cover when the cover is in the second position.

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17. The cover of claim 15 wherein the cover includes channels formed in one surface, the channels each having sidewalls and a bottom wall defining a length, width and depth of the channel;

10 a substantially opaque material coating at least one sidewall of the channels;

the substantially opaque material configured to limit the angle of view of the display screen through the cover.

15 18. The cover of claim 15 wherein the cover is substantially rigid.

19. The cover of claim 15 wherein the cover includes at least one hole.

20 20. The cover of claim 15 wherein the cover includes an edge extending about at least a portion of a periphery of one surface, the edge extending substantially upward when the cover is located in the first position.

21. The cover of claim 15 wherein the coupling device comprises:  
a post coupled to the cover;  
a piece adapted to receive a portion of the post such that the post is  
25 rotatable within the piece, the piece further adapted to removably and rigidly couple to the computer.

22. The cover of claim 21 wherein the piece removably couples to a hinge of the computer.

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23. The cover of claim 21 wherein the piece comprises a clip that can be removably attached to a portion of the computer.

24. The cover of claim 21 wherein the piece and the post are  
5 configured such that the post is friction fit within the piece, such that the cover is held in position by the friction fit.

25. The cover of claim 15 further comprising a clip removably coupling the cover proximate to the display screen when the cover is in the second  
10 position.

26. The cover of claim 15 further comprising:  
a touch sensitive layer positioned on at least a portion of an exposed surface of the cover in the first position, the touch sensitive portion serving as  
15 a user input.

27. A method of protecting an electronic device having a display screen and user inputs, the method comprising:  
coupling a cover to a portion of the electronic device;  
20 positioning the cover to a first position, wherein in the first position, the cover is located proximate to the user inputs and is sized to cover at least one user input;  
repositioning the cover to a second position, wherein in the second position, the cover is relocated proximate to the display screen and is sized to  
25 cover at least a portion of the display screen.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
limiting an angle of view of the display screen through the cover when the cover is in the second position.  
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29. The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
placing, after the positioning step, an object on the cover without  
activating the at least one user input.

5           30. The method of claim 27 wherein the repositioning step comprises:  
pivoting the cover about an axis to relocate the cover to the second  
position.

10           31. The method of claim 27 wherein the coupling step comprises:  
clipping the cover to the portion of the electronic device.

32. The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
removing the cover from the electronic device.